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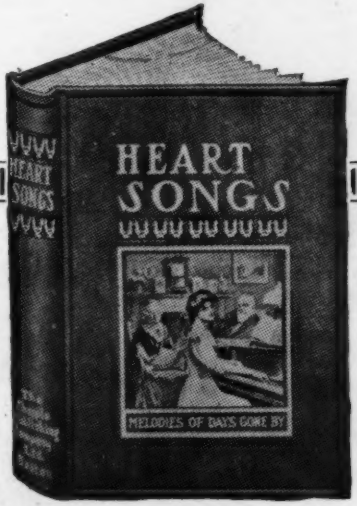

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SHAKESPEARE is indeed the man of mystery as far as the painters are concerned. There is not even a record on canvas to indicate his features; only an imperfect death mask has been preserved to reflect the countenance of the living Shakespeare to his admirers three centuries after his death. The only painting extant was made by a Dutch artist who portrayed Ben Jonson and Shakespeare playing chess. The face of the Bard of Avon and erstwhile manager of the Globe Theatre, intently interested in the game, does not reveal the features generally shown in a portrait made for posterity. Artists have been unable to agree, but the ideals and visions and lively imagination of painters have been concentrated upon producing a likeness of Shakespeare showing the lines indicating his towering individuality of character reflected so masterfully in his immortal works.